

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AF-10 EA-11 SR-02 ORM-03 EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2049

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, TC

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF 29TH UNGA ISSUES WITH UAEG

REF: STATE 184584; STATE 192437; ABU DHABI 1261.

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED US VIEWS ON GA ISSUES TO
MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEPT. 15. MIN STATE DESCRIBED
LIMITATIONS ON UAE INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION FIRST,
BECAUSE IT IS MEMBER OF ARAB BLOC, AND SECOND, BECAUSE IT IS SMALL
NATION THAT DID NOT WISH TO EXPOSE ITSELF UNNECESSARILY ON GLOBAL ISS-
UES.
WITHIN THESE LIMITATIONS UAE NEVERTHELESS HOPED TO EXERT CONSTRUC-
TIVE INFLUENCE AS "COMMITTED MEMBER OF WESTERN WORLD."
END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE SUBJECT OF OUR APPROACH TO
UNGА SESSION IN GENERAL TERMS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI
WHEN I HAD LUNCH WITH HIM IN LONDON SEPTEMBER 5. LIMITED
TIME DID NOT PERMIT OUR GOING OVER SPECIFIC ISSUES ON THAT
OCCASION, AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER TO
RETURN TO ABU DHABI TO FOLLOW UP WITH HIM HERE. SINCE
IT NOW APPEARS HE MAY PROCEED DIRECTLY FROM LONDON TO
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NEW YORK, I CALLED SEPTEMBER 15 ON HIS DEPUTY, MINISTER

OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAIF GHUBBASH, TO MAKE DETAILED PRESENTATION
OF OUR VIEWS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES IN REFTELS. I LEFT TWO
PIECES OF PAPER WITH GHUBBASH SUMMARIZING OUR VIEWS, ONE
ON KHMER CREDENTIALS BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO
IT, SECOND SUMMARIZING OTHER ISSUES, AND ASKED THAT
THESE BE TRANSMITTED TO FONMIN IN NEW YORK. GHUBBASH
PROMISED TO DO SO.

3. TO BOTH FONMIN IN LONDON AND GHUBBASH HERE I STRESSED
HOPED TO GET AWAY FROM STERILE PATTERN OF PAST WHEREBY
RESOUNDING BUT UNREALISTIC RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY GA.
INSTEAD WE HOPED UAE WOULD JOIN US IN TRYING TO CREATE NEW
ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH UN ACTIONS WERE CONSIDERED ON BASIS OF
THEIR IMPACT ON FURTHERING RESOLUTION OF WORLD ISSUES. I
SAID OUR DELEGATION WOULD WELCOME CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH
UAE DEL DURING SESSION AS VARIOUS ITEMS WERE TAKEN UP.

4. GHUBBASH HAD FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE AS I OUTLINED
OUR VIEWS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

A. GENERAL UAE POLICY. GHUBBASH SAID UAE WOULD DRAW
DISTINCTION BETWEEN, ONE ONE HAND, ISSUES ON WHICH ARABS SAW
THEIR INTERESTS DIRECTLY INVOLVED, AND ON THE OTHER HAND,
"EAST-WEST ISSUES" IN WHICH ARABS FELT THEIR INTERESTS ONLY
MARGINALLY INVOLVED AND NO ATTEMPT IS MADE TO ORGANIZE SOLID
ARAB FRONT. ON FORMER, GHUBBASH SAID HE HOPED US
WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT UAE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO
GO WITH ARAB MAJORITY. WITHIN ARAB COUNCILS UAE WOULD
HOPE TO EXERCISE CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE, BUT IN VOTING UAE
SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BREAK ARAB RANKS. ON EAST-
WEST ISSUES, NORMAL UAE INCLINATION WOULD BE TO STAY NON-
INVOLVED. GHUBBASH SAID UAE WAS COMMITTED MEMBER OF WESTERN
WORLD BUT AS SMALL STATE IT GENERALLY COULD NOT AFFORD TO
"GET OUT IN FRONT" IN ITS VOTING AT GA. I SAID WE UNDER-
STOOD SOME OF LIMITATIONS ON UAE ACTION BUT NEVERTHELESS
BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE SCOPE WITHIN THOSE LIMITATIONS
FOR UAE TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AND NOT JUST RIDE WITH
AFRO-ASIAN MAJORITY, AND I URGED GHUBBASH TO EXERCISE THIS
TO FULLEST. HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT AND SAID HE WOULD ENDEAVOR
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TO DO SO.

B. KHMER CREDENTIALS. I STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF OUT-
COME OF THIS ISSUE TO USG. GHUBBASH POINTED OUT THAT AT
LAST UNGA THE UAE HAD VOTED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION
BUT HAD ABSTAINED ON CREDENTIALS VOTE ITSELF. SUGGESTION
WAS THAT UAE WOULD FOLLOW SAME PATTERN THIS YEAR, BUT
GHUBBASH MADE NO COMMITMENT.

C. SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES. IN RESPONSE MY POINTS, GHUBBASH SAID HE TOO THOUGHT RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE REALISTIC BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT, IN ADDITION TO UAE VIEW THAT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICIES REPREHENSIBLE, UAE HAD MANY AFRICAN FRIENDS. GHUBBASH COMMENTS MAKIT IT SEEM DOUBTFUL UAE WOULD PART WITH AFRO-ASIANS ON THESE ISSUES.

D. KOREA. GHUBBASH COMMENTS SEEMED SYMPATHETIC TO OUR VIEW ON KOREAN ITEM. HE SAID HE RECENTLY BEEN VISITED BY NORTH KOREAN REP WHO HAD URGED UAE TO BACK CONFEDERATION OF TWO KOREAN STATES. GHUBBASH SAID THIS FRANKLY MADE NO SENSE TO HIM AND HE URGED TO KOREAN THAT REALITY OF TWO SEPARATE STATES BE ACCEPTED. GHUBBASH ADDED TO ME THAT HE HOPED TWO SIDES COULD EVENTUALLY DRAW CLOSER TOGETHER THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, "AS TWO GERMANIES HAVE DONE."

E. MIDDLE EAST. I SAID US IS COMMITTED TO PURSUE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT AND WE WERE AT THIS MOMENT HELPING STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AS TO POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS TOWARD FINAL GOAL OF COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT THAT DEBATE AT GA NOT UPSET THIS DELICATE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. GHUBBASH LISTENED CAREFULLY BUT MADE NO COMMENT.

F. UNRWA. I SAID US HAD FOR TWO AND HALF DECADES BORNE MAIN BURDEN OF SUPPORT FOR UNRWA AND NOW BELIEVED THAT WITH MASSIVE SHIFT OF RESOURCES TO ARAB WORLD ARAB OIL-PRODUCTING STAES SHOULD INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. GHUBBASH REPLIED THERE WOULD BE INCREASE IN UAE CONTRIBUTION THIS YEAR.

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5. COMMENT. IF USUN CAN FIND THE TIME, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTH OUR WHILE FOR SOMEONE FROM DELEGATION TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK (ABU DHABI 1261) TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUES, SINCE INQAY NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS HERE. GIVEN LIMITATIONS ON UAE FREEDOM OF ACTION WHICH GHUBBASH FRANKLY DESCRIBED, THERE WILL BE NO POINT IN MAKING MAJOR EFFORT WITH UAE ON MOST ISSUES. HOWEVER, ON SELECTED ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US, AND WHERE UAE MAY HAVE SOME LEEWAY, SUCH AS ON KHMER CREDENTIALS, IT WILL BE WORTH WORKING ON UAE DEL. BOTH SUWAIDI AND GHUBBASH ARE REASONABLE AND ESSENTIALLY PRO-WESTERN MEN.

6. I ALSO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION IN USUN 3173 THAT WE SEEK

TO PERSUADE SAUDIS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH UAE ON ISSUES,
SUCH AS KHMER CREDENTIALS, ON WHICH SAUDIS MAY SUPPORT OUR
POSITION. WITH UAE-SAUDI BORDER AGREEMENT JUST SIGNED
(BUT WITH MANY DETAILS STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED) UAE IS LIKELY
TO BE PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO SAUDI APPROACHES AT THIS
TIME.
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